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C A S E  
O F

JOHN NELSON.

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WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.

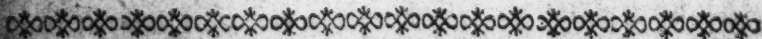
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The FIFTH EDITION.

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*The Lion hath roared, who will not fear? the LORD hath  
spoken, who can but prophesy? AMOS iii. 8.*

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B R I S T O L:

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T H E  
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J O H N N E L S O N.

MY 4, 1744, At Seven at Night, when I  
had done my Day's Work, I went to  
*M* *Adwalton*, and expounded at *John Booth's*,  
to a well-behav'd Congregation. When  
I had done, *Joseph Gibson*, the Constable's  
Deputy (an Alehouse-keeper, who found *his Craft*  
*was in Danger*) pressed me for a Soldier. I ask'd him  
by whose Order? He said, "Several of the Inhabi-  
tants of the Town, who did not like so much  
"Preaching;" And by his own Talk it appear'd, they  
were those of his own Craft.

He caus'd me to go to the *White-hart*, whether Mr.  
*Charleworth*, and Mr. *Holmes* of *Sikehouse*, and several  
more went with us: and Mr. *Charleworth* offer'd 500l.  
Bail for me 'till the next Day; but no Bail was to be  
taken for a Methodist (so called.) He protested I  
should go to his House. I made no Resistance, but  
went, and several of our People with us; and we sang  
an Hymn, and pray'd together, and so parted.

Next Morning several People came to see me before  
we went from *Adwalton*. Here I was kept ten Hours,  
before the Warrant came into his House; and when  
the Constable came, he said, if he had been there he  
would have prevented what *Gibson* had done.

Between Eight and Nine I went to *Birfal*, to my  
House; and after I had chang'd my Cloaths, we set  
out for *Halifax*, and I was brought before the Com-  
missioners, who smil'd one at another as soon as they

saw me. They bid the Door-keepers not to let any Man come in; but Mr. *Thomas Brooke* had got in with me; and they said, that is one of his Converts. Then they called *John Gibson*, and ask'd, How many Men have you brought? He said, One. Well, and what have you against him? Why, Gentleman, said he, I have nothing to say against him, but *he preaches to the People*; and some of our Townsmen don't like so much Preaching. They broke out into Laughter; and one of them *swore*, I was fit to go for a Soldier, for there I might have preaching enough. I said to him, Sir, you ought not to swear: *well*, said they to me, *you have no Licence to preach, and you shall go for a Soldier*; and to the Captain, *Captain, is he fit for you?* Yes, he answer'd; *then take him away*.

But, I said, here are several of my honest Neighbours; you ought to give me the Liberty of another Man, and hear what they say of me, whether I am such an one as the Warrant mentions or no. They answer'd, *here is your Minister* [one of the Commissioners] *and he has told us of your Character, and we will hear no more*. So I found I was condemn'd before the Commissioners saw me.

Then Mr. *Brooks* laid the Petitions before them, sent me by neighbouring Gentlemen; which testified I had done no Evil, but had behav'd myself well in my Neighbourhood, and had always maintain'd my Family very well; and they desir'd them to set me at Liberty. And Mr. *Brooks* said, "Gentlemen, you see he is not such a Man as is mention'd in the Warrant." But they bid him hold his Peace, and said, "You are one of his Pupils, and you ought to go with him." He answer'd, "Why do you not send me then; for you have as much Right to send me as him?"

Then our Minister spoke and said, *Young Brooks lives with a Woman of the worst Character in our Town*. When I heard him speak against his Neighbours such notorious Falshoods as these, I thought it would be to no Purpose for Mr. *Brooks* to say any more; so I desired him to be silent. Then they read the Papers sent on my Behalf; and one of the Com-

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pany ask'd if he must put them on the File? but the Answer to him by several was, *No; for if they be called for, they will make against us.*

" So, said I, Gentlemen, I see there is neither Law nor Justice for a Man that is called a *Methodist*; but all is lawful that is done against me. I pray God forgive you, for you know not what you do." They answer'd, *Surely your Minister must be a better Judge of you than any other Man, and he has told us enough of you and your preaching.* " Well, said I, " Mr. C——, what do you know of me that is evil? whom have I defrauded? or where have I contracted a Debt that I cannot pay?" He said, *You have no visible Way of getting your Living.* I answer'd, " I am as able to get my Living with my Hands, as any Man of my Trade in *England* is, and you *know it*: and had I not been at Work Yesterday, and all the Week before?" But they bid the Captain take me away; and he came and said, *We will take you off preaching soon.* I answer'd, " You must first ask my Master Leave." *But we will make you give over.* But, I replied, " It is out of your Power." Then he thrust me into a Corner of the Room, and said, I should have Company presently.

Afterwards several were brought to the Commissioners, and three condemn'd to go with me, and four or five acquitted. But all had their Neighbours to speak for them, except me; for what Need was there of any other Witness?

Glory be to God on high! He kept my Soul all this Time in perfect Peace, and I could say to him from my Heart,

Whilst thou, O God art nigh,  
My Soul disdains to fear;  
Sin and Satan I defy  
Still impotently near:  
Earth and Hell their Wars may wage,  
Calm I mark their vain Design,  
Smile to see them idly rage  
Against a Child of thine.

Then the Captain read the Articles of War to us that were condemn'd, and said, *You hear your Doom is Death if you disobey us.* I answer'd, " I do not fear the Man that can kill me, any more than I do him that can cut down a Dogstander. For I know my Life is hid with CHRIST in GOD; and he will judge between me and you one Day: but I beseech him not to lay this Sin to your Charge." And to Mr. C——, I said, " Sir, I pray GOD forgive you; for you have given me such a Character as not another Man in England will that knows me."

I was greatly surprized to see Men sit on the Judgment-seat, and drink and swear as they did; and a Man that had a Commission from GOD to reprove all that do such Things, could hear and see, and yet never speak in GOD's Cause. It made me cry out to the LORD, " Take the Matter into thy Hand, O GOD, for Righteousness is fallen in the Streets, and Iniquity bears Rule." But I could not hear them swear but I must speak to them, altho' they mocked at my Reproof.

Then we were guarded to *Halifax* Goal; (but the Keeper would not let us come into his Goal) then to the Officer's Quarters, and kept 'till six at Night, where *John Rhodes*, and *Thomas Charlesworth* of *Little Gummerfel* came to see me, and cared for my Soul, as if they had been my Mother's Sons. O, my GOD, remember them for Good, and give them and their Houses, and all that wish well to our *Sion*, to rejoice in the Gladness of thy People!

At six we set out for *Bradford*, and many of the Inhabitants of *Halifax* pray'd for me, and wept to see me in the Hands of unrighteous and cruel Men. But I said, " Fear not, GOD hath his Way in the Whirlwind; and he will plead my Cause; only pray for me, that my Faith fail not."

When we were about Half-way between *Halifax* and *Bradford*, one of the Soldiers said to me, " Sir, I am sorry for you; for the Captain is order'd to put you in the Dungeon: But I will speak to him, and if he will let me have the Care of you, you shall lie with me;

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me; for the Dungeon is a loathsome Place as ever I saw." I thank'd him for his Offer, but when we got to *Bradford*, we were driven up in the Street where the Cross did stand; and the Captain sent and fetched the Keeper of the Dungeon, and said, *Take this Man and put him into the Dungeon; and take this other along with you* — (a poor harmless Man, all the Cloaths upon whose Back were not worth one Shilling; neither did they lay any Thing to his Charge when he was ordered for a Soldier.)

But when they came to the Dungeon Door, the Soldier who spoke to me by the Way, went to the Captain, and said, Sir, if you will give me Charge over Mr. *Nelson*, my Life for his, he shall be forth coming in the Morning; but the Captain threatned to break his Head if he spoke about me any more.

He came to us before I went down, and I ask'd him, " Sir, what have I done, that I must go to the Dungeon? if you are afraid of me that I should run away, set a Guard over me in a Room, and I will pay them." He answer'd, *My Order is, to put you in the Dungeon.* So I see my LORD's Word is fulfill'd, *The Servant is not above his Master.* For those that were accus'd of Thieving and great Evils which they had done in the Neighbourhood, must eat and drink, and lie on Feather-beds; but I only desir'd a little Water, and it was refus'd me by the Captain, altho' I had nothing all Day, except a little Tea in the Morning. But my Master never sends his Servants a Warfare at their own Charge. He gives Strength according to our Day. For when I came into the Dungeon, that stunk worse than an Hogstye or little House, by reason of the Blood and Filth which sinks from the Butchers who kill over it, my Soul was so fill'd with the Love of God, that it was as a Paradise to me.

Then could I cry out, O the glorious Liberty of the Children of God! and I fell down on my Knees, and gave God Thanks that he counted me worthy to be put in a Dungeon for the Truth's Sake; and pray'd that my Enemies might be saved from the Wrath to come

come, I think with as much Desire as I could feel for my own Mother's Children. I wish'd they were as happy in their Houses as I was in the Dungeon.

About ten, several of the People came to the Dungeon Door, and brought me some Candles, and put me some Meat and Water in at the Hole of the Door. When I had eat and drank, I gave God Thanks: and we sung Hymns almost all Night; they without, and I within.

The same Night, a Man that lives in *Bradford* came to the Dungeon; and though he was an Enemy to the *Methodists*, so call'd, when he smelt the ill Savour of the Place, he said, "Humanity moves me," and went away directly; and about eleven, came again and said, "I will assure you I am not in your Way of Thinking, but for all that, I have been with your Captain, and offer'd ten Pounds Bail for you, and myself as a Prisoner, if he would let you lie in a Bed, but all in vain, for I can get nothing of him but bad Words. If the Justice was in Town, I would have gone to him, and would have soon fetched you out: But since it is as it is, I pray God plead your Cause." O my God, let not him that would give a Cup of cold Water to thy Servants lose his Reward: but do thou bless him, and bless thy People; and I beseech thee to have Mercy on our Enemies, and let not thy heavy Judgments fall upon them: But be thou glorified in their Conversion, not in their Destruction.

The poor Man that was with me might have starv'd, if my Friends had not brought him Meat: for when they had lock'd us up, they went to their Lodgings, and took no more Thought of us that Night.

When the Man and I were laid down upon a little stinking Straw, "Pray you, Sir, (said he) are all these your Kinsfolk, that they love you so well? I think they are the lovingest People that ever I saw in my Life." I answer'd, By this you may know that they are JESUS CHRIST's Disciples; for this is the Mark he himself has given, whereby all Men might know his Disciples from the unbelieving World.

At



At four in the Morning, my Wife and several more came to the Dungeon, and spoke to me through the Hole of the Door; and I said, *Jeremiab's* Lot is fallen upon me. Then it came to my Remembrance, that when I was about thirteen or fourteen Years old, I often thought if God would make me like *Jeremiab*, to stand and speak his Words to the People in the Streets, as he did, I should not mind who cast Dirt at me. And now I am in some Measure, treated as he was, for persuading Men to flee from the Wrath to come.

My Wife said, "Fear not; the Cause is God's for which you are here, and he will plead it himself. Therefore be not concerned about me and the Children; for he that feeds the young Ravens will be mindful of us. He will give you Strength for your Day; and after we have suffer'd a while, he will perfect that which is lacking in our Souls, and then bring us where the Wicked cease from troubling, where the weary are at Rest."

So said they all that were with her at the Door. I told them, "I cannot fear either Man or Devil, so long as I find the Love of God as I do now: for he has cheer'd my Heart as with sweet Wine, ever since he suffered me to be cast into Prison. O that I may be faithful unto Death, and I shall receive the Crown of Life! for not one Word of *JESUS* shall fall to the Ground 'till all be accomplish'd."

About five in the Morning they took me out, and we were guarded to *Leeds*, and stood in the Street 'till ten. Hundreds flock'd to see me. Some said, "It is a Shame to send a Man for a Soldier for speaking the Truth; for many of our Neighbours that follow the *Methodists*, and were as wicked before as any People in the Town, are now like new Creatures; for we don't hear an ill Word come out of their Mouths." Others cried, "I wish they were all hang'd out of the Way, for they make People go mad: and one cannot get drunk nor swear, but every Fool must correct us, as if we were to be taught by them. But I hope they will now be brought to nought, for that is one of the worst of them."

Just

Just as the Church began, I was guarded to the Gaol, and the others order'd to the Alehouse. The Gaol-keeper here was very civil; for he let my Friends come in several Times to see me. I thought of the *Pilgrim's Progress*; for hundreds of People in the Streets stood, and looked at me through the Iron-gate, and were ready to fight about me. Several would have given Bail for me, if they would let me out; but I was told that a hundred Pounds was refus'd, which was offer'd by a Stranger for me. I am too notorious a Criminal to be allow'd such Favours; for Christianity is a Crime which the World can never forgive.

At Night, I believe an hundred of our Friends were with me in the Gaol together. We sung an Hymn, and pray'd, and I gave an Exhortation, and so parted. But Mr. H. was not willing I should lie on stinking Straw, and sent me a Bed to lie on. I find the Time is not yet come for me to be hated of all Men for CHRIST's Sake. I pray God give me Strength in that Day! Glory be to his holy Name; hitherto his Grace is sufficient for me, and I hang upon his Promise for Strength in my next Trials.

At five on *Monday* Morning I was let out of Gaol, and we march'd off for *York* directly; many of our Friends went with us out of the Town near three Miles, but when I came to take my Leave, they mourn'd as one that had lost his First-born. I spake comfortable Words to them, and bad them "stand fast, in nothing terrified by your Adversaries; which is to them an evident Token of Perdition, but to you of Salvation, and that of God. So the Peace of God be with you all."

We came to *York* by three, and were brought before several of the Officers at the *Black Swan* in *Coney-street*, who seem'd to rejoice as Men that had taken great Spoil, and saluted me with many a grievous Oath. It brought something to my Mind which I had spoken in the Fields to the Lord, when he had broke a great Cloud that was on my Soul, through my refusing to preach when many desir'd me, and I had

Time,

Time, but consulted with Flesh and Blood. My Soul was in great Distress, so that I threw myself on the Ground, and requested for Death; seeing it more agreeable to Flesh and Blood, to be a Shepherd's Dog than a Preacher of the Gospel: For his Hand is against every Man, and every Man's Hand is against him. But at the Remembrance of the Prophets and Apostles, and CHRIST himself, what Contradiction and Tribulation they all met with, the Cloud broke, and my Soul was so refresh'd with the Love of God, that I cried out, "My LORD and my GOD! now thou hast given me Strength, forsake me not; and if thou send me to Hell, to preach to Devils, I am ready to go."

When I was before these Officers, and heard such horrid Language, I thought Hell could not be much worse than the Company I was in. I ask'd them, Do you believe there is one God, and that he is a God of Truth? They said, *We do*. I answer'd, I cannot believe you, I tell you plainly. *Why so?* I reply'd, I cannot think that any Man of common Understanding, who believes that God is true, dares take his Name in vain; much less do you believe God can hear you, when you pray him to *damn your Souls*. Now suppose God should grant you the Damnation you pray for, what miserable Wretches would you be? Do you know that you must one Day appear before that God, who will not hold him guiltless that taketh his Name in vain?

As I reason'd with them about a future State, they seem'd to shrink as if I had thrown Fire at them; but they soon put away the Conviction, and said, "You must not preach here, for you are deliver'd to us for a Soldier; and must not talk so to us that are Officers." I answer'd, there is but one Way for you to prevent me. They said, *What is that?* I reply'd, "It is to swear no more in my Hearing."

Then we were guarded through the City; but it was as if Hell was mov'd from beneath to meet me at my coming. The Streets and Windows were fill'd with People who shouted and huzza'd as if I had been one that

that had laid waste the Nation. But the LORD made my Brow like Brass, so that I could look on them as Grasshoppers, and pass through the City, as if there had been none in it, but God and me. O that I may never offend my gracious God, or provoke him to take his Loving-kindness from me ! then, though I go thro' the Valley of the Shadow of Death, I will fear no Evil. Even now I find his Word fulfilled, where he saith, I will deliver thee from sudden Fear, and from Terror; for it shall not come near thee. Verily thou art a God of Truth ! O be merciful to this great City, whose Streets ring with Curses; and turn upon them a pure Language, that their Souls may be sav'd, and the Enemy disappointed of his Hope !

I was brought to the Guard-house, and the Officers cast Lots for me, and it was Captain S——'s Lot to have me. Then they offer'd me Money, but I refus'd to take it; and they bid the Serjeant hand-cuff me and send me to Prison. I was guarded thither by a File of Musketeers, but not hand cuffed, and kept two Nights and Part of three Days; during which Time I was beset with such Cursers and Swearers as could hardly be match'd out of Hell. So I had Work enough both Day and Night to reprove them. I found they could not stand my Words, but the most harden'd among them shrunk, and wish'd they could leave it off, and never swear more.

Several of the Town's People came and ask'd me of the Doctrine that the *Methodists* preached; which make their Names, said they, to be loathed by all Sects and Parties in the Nation. My Answer was, That same Doctrine it is, which made *Jews* and *Gentiles* conspire against JESUS CHRIST who first preach'd it; and whoever he be that bears the same Testimony, he must meet with the same Treatment. Our LORD hath said, *Ye shall be hated of all Men for my Sake.* And again, *If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you.* What ! do you think CHRIST would be found a Lair, and all his Apostles, who told us of the Things that are done in this our Day? Nay, verily; Heaven and Earth shall pass away, but not one Word of CHRIST's shall not fall to the Ground.

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When I had open'd the Scriptures and told them the fundamental Points of our Doctrine, they said one to another, This People is not what the World represents them; for if this is their Doctrine, there is not a Man in *England* can contradict them. They offer'd me strong Drink (but I told them I did not chuse it) wished me out of my Enemies Hands, and left me to my Company of Drunkards and Swearers.

I may say, I have fought with Beasts at *York*, for so these Men live; yet my speaking to them was not in vain; for they did bridle their Tongues in my Presence, after the first 24 Hours. When they did speak any blasphemous Word, if I did but turn, and look them in the Face, they look'd like Criminals before the Magistrate.

On *Tuesday* Night, my Wife and Sister *Mitchel* come to see me, and found me lying on the Boards. I said, Behold the Fruits of the Gospel. Now you see the Word of God is fulfill'd, *They lay a Snare for him that reproveth in the Gate, and he that turneth from Evil maketh himself a Prey.* But God looks down from Heaven, and will plead our Cause; fear not. No, they answer'd, we do not fear; for our God is as able to deliver now, and he was 1700 Years ago. So they took their Leave of me that Night, and wish'd me a good Repose on my wooden Bed; and Thanks be to God, I slept as well as if I had been on a Bed of Down:

Next Morning they brought me something to eat, and bade me be strong in the LORD, and not fear them that can kill the Body only. My Heart was rejoiced to see them so stedfast in the Faith.

This Day a Court-Martial was held, and I was guarded to it by a File of Musketeers, with their Bayonets fix'd to their Pieces. When I came before the Court, they ask'd what is this Man's Crime? and the Answer was, This is the *Methodist* Preacher, and he refuses to take Money. Then they turn'd to me, and said, "Sir, you need not find Fault with us for we must obey our Orders, which are to make you act as a Soldier: for as such you are deliver'd to us; and if you have not Justice done you, we cannot help it."

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My Answer was, " I shall not fight ; for I cannot bow my Knee before the LORD, to pray for a Man, and get up and kill him when I have done: For I know GOD both hears me speak, and sees me act ; and I should expect the Portion of the Hypocrite, if my Actions contradicted my Prayers. Well, don't stand preaching to us, said they, for we must make you obey us. Serjeant, give him some Money ; he offer'd me two Shillings, but I refus'd to take it. They threatened me sore, but I could not fear them at all. Well, said they, if you run away, you are as liable to suffer as if you had taken our Money. I answer'd, If I cannot be discharg'd lawfully, I shall not run away. If I do, punish me as you please. Then they order'd the Serjeant to go to Quarters with me. He carried me to the *Wild Man* in *Peter-gate*, and the People behav'd well to me, tho' they had eight more quarter'd upon them. They said, It is a Pity you should come among such a wicked Crew as these we have. Surely there are but few like them in the World. They order'd me a Room and Bed to myself. Blessed be GOD, who gives me Favour in the Sight of the *Egyptians*, who have been so us'd by these of our own Church. These People were profess'd *Papists*, who, I might imagine, would shew no more Mercy to a Man that preaches Salvation by Faith, then they would to a mad Dog. But I see it is not the Name that makes the Christian, but the Mind that was in CHRIST ; and whosoever hath this Mind in him, he is a Christian, let the World call him what they will.

I came to *Margaret Townshend's*, and met with my Wife and Sister *Mitchel*, who rejoiced to see my Feet once more out of Prison. We sang Praises to GOD for his great Mercies to me at this Time, and passed the Afternoon in encouraging each other. Next Morning I set them out of Town, and went, as I was order'd, to parade at the *Blue Boar* in *Castle-gate*. The Officers order'd Corporal *W——* to fetch me a Gun and other warlike Instruments. He seem'd to shudder at the Task, but was forced to obey ; and when he brought them, and came to gird them on me, he trembled as if he had had the Palsy.

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I ask'd why they girt me with these warlike Habilliments, for I am a Man averſe from War, and ſhall not fight but under the Prince of Peace, the Captain of my Salvation; and the Weapons he gives me are not carnal like theſe. Well, ſaid they, but you muſt bear theſe, till you can get your Diſcharge. As you put them on me, I anſwer'd, I will bear them as a Croſs, and uſe them as far as I can, without defiling my Conſcience; for that I will not do for any Man on Earth.

The Officers bad them march us off to *Hezworth Moor*, to learn the Exercife of a Soldier; but Corporal *W*— ſeem'd as tender of me as if he had been my own Father, and carried the Gun for me to the Field. But when he came to teach me their Exercife, his Heart ſeem'd to fail him, and he bade me lay down the Gun, and we fell into Diſcourſe. I found he had the Fear of God before his Eyes, and the LORD had ſhew'd him the Light of his Countenance. But he was as a Sparrow alone on the Houſe-top; none cared for his Converſation, but they all deſpis'd him, becauſe he would not get drunk and ſwear as they did. O my God, remember him for Good always, I beſeech thee.

Next Day I was order'd to the Field, and others muſt teach me the warlike Exercife; who all behav'd civilly to me. I had more to ſee me than all the reſt, and it caus'd the Truth to break out the more, and remov'd Prejudice from many. I found the People of *York* look'd upon one that is call'd a *Methodiſt*, as one that has the Plague, and infects all he comes near; and they bleſſed God that none had come to preach there.

But if I was bound, the Word of God was not bound; for if any did blaſpheme, I reprov'd them, whether rich or poor, and fell into many Diſputes with them; and God gave me Words, ſuch as they could not reſiſt. My Diſcourſes had ſuch an Effect on them, that they ſaid, They wiſh'd Mr. *Wesley* would come and preach there. I gave them ſeveral of our little Books; ſo by hearing and reading, they found out the Doctrine

to be only the plain Word of God. And now several attended my coming to Field ; not to see me as before, but to ask Questions, and to know of the New Doctrine (as some were pleas'd to call it.) Surely by all these Things shall the Gospel be spread. The LORD is in the Tempest, and it shall turn to his Glory ; Satan doth but whet a Knife to cut his own Throat.

On Sunday the 13th I went to *Cony-street Church*, and my LORD manifested himself to me in great Love at the Sacrament, At Night, *Hannah Scolesfield* and I and our Brother from *Muncheſter*, with two or three more, went out into the Fields, thinking to retire ; but some had seen us, and told others that we were gone to sing Hymns. We had been but a few Minutes together, before we had near an hundred to keep us Company. We sung two Hymns, and I gave them an Exhortation. They receiv'd my Words with Meekness, and wished to hear me again.

We went about a Mile another Way ; but there were People walking there also, who knew me, and flock'd to us and desir'd to hear what sort of Doctrine it is we preach, which causes all Men to hate us. I said, It is the Doctrine of JESUS CHRIST, which made all Men hate him ; and ye are sensible our great Shepherd said, *Ye shall be hated of all Men for my Sake.* But, they said, This is a Christian Land, and it is not so now. Well, said I, then you must say the Gospel is not an everlasting Gospel, or you declare us blest, and almost all the Preachers in *England* curst. They said, What do ye point the Blessings to you, and the Curse to all the rest ? we think it the other Way. Then said I, you do not think as CHRIST spake ; for he said, *Blessed are ye when all Men speak Evil of you, and hate you for my sake and the Gospel's : rejoice and be exceeding glad, for so they did to the Prophets of old. But woe unto you when all Men speak well of you ; for so they spake of the false Prophets.* Upon this they were silent, but wished they could hear me themselves, then they could judge better. By this Time a great Company was come together, desiring to hear me, and God gave me to speak plain, and to their Hearts. When

I had



I had done, several of them said, they would go ten Miles to hear such another Discourse. The Prejudice seem'd taken out of their Minds at a Stroke; and they cried, this is the Doctrine which ought to be preach'd, let Men say what they will against it.

As we came back, one of our Company said, I wonder the Devil cannot perceive, that his Striving to suppress the Gospel, is like striving to quench the Fire by casting Oil into it. As God spake, so it is I see this Day. His Servants are like Brands of Fire cast into dry Stubble. Surely God will be glorified in your Captivity. Only let us watch and pray that the Enemy get no Advantage over us.

The Day following I went, as before, to Exercise, and many came to talk with me; some to dispute, and some who earnestly desir'd to be sav'd. Among the Disputers was a Clergyman. I knew him; for I had seen him in his Gown three Days before. When several, who appear'd as Gentlemen, disputed hotly against all the Power of Religion, I shew'd them from the Articles, and Homilies, and Prayers of our own Church, that those who spoke as they did, were no Members of the Church of England. For, to be a real Member of CHRIST's Church, is to feel CHRIST in us; to know he died for his Church, and that by his Death we are deliver'd from Death Eternal; to find that Spirit which rais'd him from the Dead, raising us from the Death of Sin, that our Bodies may be the undefiled Temples of the living God, an holy Habitation of God, thro' his Spirit dwelling in us. For as many as have the Spirit of God, they are the Sons of God; and if any Man have not the Spirit of *Christ*, he is none of his. Nay, if you *know* not (I added) that CHRIST is in you, you are now in a State of Reprobation. So, said they, you have condemn'd us all at a Stroke. I answer'd, I have condemn'd no Man; for I have not spoken my own, but the Words of God, as I appeal to your Consciences, you that have ever read them.

When they were put to Silence, the Minister began to explain the Spirit of God out of the World; as

what could not be felt or perceiv'd at all, neither was it necessary, now we had the Scriptures to go by. I said, it is highly necessary, if the Scriptures be true: for they tell me, if I have not the Spirit of CHRIST, I am none of his; and if I am not his, I must belong to the Devil: for they two share the World between them.

Besides, if there be no such Thing as receiving the Holy Ghost, now a-days, as you say, then he who repeats the Prayers of the Church, offers to God the Sacrifice of Fools. Here he storm'd at me, and call'd me an Enthusiast, and said, to talk of the Spirit was all a Delusion. Hold, Sir, I reply'd, or I shall expose you before the People, which I did not design to do. How could you affirm, before God and the Congregation, that you was inwardly moved by the Holy Ghost to take upon you the Office of a Deacon: and now you testify that there is no such Thing as being moved by the Holy Ghost? He said, did I say so? Yes, Sir, I answer'd, you did, when you receiv'd Holy Orders. He turn'd pale, spake not ten Words more, but went away. I have met him several times since, and he speaks kindly to me.

I had some every Day to dispute with me; and every Night some to converse with me, who wanted to know the Way to *Zion*. The People now cry out, When will Mr. *Wesley* come, for here are thousands in this Town would gladly hear him. Indeed I find a great Desire in them to know the Way of Salvation; nay, and they seem willing to be sav'd God's own Way; that is, *from* their Sins, not *in* them. Surely the LORD will be mindful of them, and give them Teachers after his own Heart.

The second *Sunday* I went to Church, and my Heart was comforted again by the Love of God in the Sacrament. God, I find, will meet with us in his own Ways. O may we never forsake them!

This Week I had several of the Brethren to see me, and we were comforted together. Our Brother *Asb* brought me some little Books, which I gave to the People who came to talk with me. So that by  
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my Speaking, and their Reading, many began to be alarm'd, and sent for me to their Houses, to enquire how can these Things be, which we affirm? For if these Things are so as you say, and Mr. *Wesley* has here written, then we are not Christians. I told them I would prove these Things to be true, both from our own Church, and from the written Word of God; and if you find you have not these inward Marks of Faith, such as Peace, Joy, Love, the Witness of the Spirit, you are not Christians yet. But that is no Reason why ye should not become such; for CHRIST has commanded Repentance and Remission of Sins to be preach'd to every Soul in his Name; and he doth actually pardon and absolve all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his Holy Gospel. Therefore seek, and you shall find; for the Truth of God binds Him to give to every one that asketh.

The People attended my going to the Field all this Week; and when I went along the Streets, they came out of their Houses to stare at me, as if I had been a Monster. I have read that they would not suffer them to buy or sell in the City, unless they had the Mark of the Beast; but here, without his Mark we cannot so much as pass the Streets. O my God, why is thy Servant as a speckled Bird in this which is call'd a Christian Country? Called after thy most sacred Name; which whosoever names should depart from Iniquity. How is the faithful City become an Harlot, and thy People taken Captive by the Enemy at his Will. Is it Time for thee, LORD to lay to thy Hand, for they have destroy'd thy Law!

One Day this Week, after my Exercise on the Moor, there came a Gentleman in gold Lace, and a Minister in Disguise, and began asking me Questions; which I answer'd according to the Ability God gave me, many flock'd round about us to hear, for our Dispute was long, and not on their Side. I believe we had talked half an Hour before I perceiv'd he was a Minister; for I took him for a Lawyer, and such a one as believed there was no God: for I spoke of the  
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Scriptures, he threw up his Head and call'd me Fool, and bad me hold my Nonsense. I said, that which you call Nonsense, I call the highest Wisdom. When I spake any thing of the Spirit of God, he heav'd his Cane at me, as if he would have struck me: but God gave me perfect Peace in my Soul, and Words that made him start, and convinc'd the By-standers of the Truth. He was so enrag'd that he foam'd at the Mouth like a Horse that is hard rid. But when I understood that he was a Minister, I said, Hold, Sir, let me speak a little by your Leave. You call yourself a Minister of the Church of *England*, do you not? *I do*. Pray then, Sir, what Doctrine do you preach? for you make the Word of God of none Effect, and you deny all Inspiration. *So I do deny all Inspiration*. How dare you then pray for the Inspiration of God's Spirit, when you do not believe there is any such Thing? When he had raged a while, he said, I believe you have read the Book of *Job*, and made it all your own. I answer'd, I have need of Patience, who have Men of such Principles as you to talk with, that regard not what they say to provoke one; but I thank God you have not done it yet. He reply'd, his Reason for speaking so was, because I could not be quiet with my Nonsense and Inspiration. And, I hear, you have preach'd several Times since you came, and have filled the Heads of many in this Town with your new Doctrine. I told him I had not preached publickly since I came, but did not know how soon I might. Then he shook his Stick and stamp'd, and said in Anger, "If you do preach publickly, we shall take an Order with you, which shall be worse than sending you for a Soldier." Let God look to that, I answer'd; for by his Grace, I can love all Men, but fear none, that can kill the Body only. I assure you it is not the Fear of Man which shall hinder me from Preaching; for where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty. When he began to be calm a little, I ask'd him, Sir, suppose you had been inwardly moved by the Holy Ghost to preach the Gospel; if the outward Ordination was refus'd you, when you believ'd yourself call'd according

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ing to the Will of CHRIST to preach, would you forbear Preaching? that is, would you obey Man or GOD? I suppose, said he, you think you have put an hard Question to me. But, hard or easy, he never answer'd it; and I cannot remember that ever I saw him since.

On *Saturday*, several desired me to preach on *Sunday Morning*. I told them I should take a Walk out to the Moor at half an Hour after seven. Accordingly I did so, and found thrice as many as I expected, and preach'd to about three Hundred well-behav'd People, who begg'd me to preach again at Night. I answer'd some of them, I did not know but I might: Yet I gave no public Notice. But one told another and spread it thro' the City.

I went to the *Minster*, and heard the Bishop preach, and received the blessed Sacrament at his Hands. At seven in the Evening, I went to the Moor, and found an unexpected Congregation, I believe six Thousand People. But there was nothing prepar'd for me to stand on, and great Part of the Soldiers were there, almost drunk, and began to quarrel with the People that crowd'd me; so that I saw there was likely to be Mischief done, and prevented it by withdrawing. If I had preach'd, I believe they would have behav'd quietly, for they seem'd to have a great Desire to hear what this Doctrine is. I had not the Opportunity of satisfying them at this Time; but they that had heard in the Morning, told others, and inflam'd them the more with Desire to hear for themselves. Several sent for me to their Houses, and others came to me: So I see GOD will work, and who shall hinder? LORD, open their Understandings that they may know the Things which belong to their everlasting Peace.

On *Monday* I heard that some Clergymen were with the Officers; and, at Night, one of the Officers sent for me, and said, What, you cannot leave off your Preaching yet; but we must be blam'd about you. But if ever you preach publicly more, you shall be severely whipped. My Answer was, I am not careful in this Matter. It is better to obey GOD than Men! I believe

lieve it is the Will of God that I should preach ; and I have not taken Man to please in any thing that will offend my God.

With many Threats he bade me go, but I made no Promise to obey him, neither did I intend it in this Case ; for I had promis'd to go to *Ackam*, a Village about a Mile out of *York*, the next Evening. Accordingly I went, and preach'd to almost all the Inhabitants, in a Field. The LORD gave me to speak his Word freely, and sent it with Power to their Hearts. The Rock was struck, and the Water gushed out. All whom I saw behav'd well. Many said they hoped I would come again ; " for let Men say what they will " of this People, this is the Truth, and so we shall " find it one Day."

As I came down the Street, an Alderman of *York* and his Wife, who had been to hear me, were standing at the Gate of his House, and he call'd to me, and said, If you please to accept of a Glas of any sort of Lquor my House affords, it is at your Service. I said, I thank you for your Good-will, but I don't Care to drink. Several others offer'd me Drink, but I took none. They pray'd me to come once a Week, as long as I stay'd in *York*. LORD, be mindful of this People, I beseech thee, and send them those, who will preach Righteousness by Faith in JESUS CHRIST. And O that they may be found in the Wedding-garment in that Day, when every Covering, which is not of thy Spirit, will be found as filthy Rags before thy pure Eyes.

All this Week I had Company as much as I could tell what to do with. Several desir'd me to preach on *Sunday* Morning. I did not promise, but went to discourse with about a Score, at seven, on the Moor. Others had a Suspicion of my being there, and I believe zoo flock'd round me, as soon as they saw me walking, and begg'd me to preach to them. I told them I stand in Jeopardy if I do ; but they answer'd, we are in more Danger than you, for our Souls are in Danger. It came into my Mind, that I had freely receiv'd, and ought to give freely. Wherefore I preach'd

to them, and God was with us of a Truth, and the Hearts of the People were open'd to receive the Word in Love.

I came to Sister *Townsend's*, and found my own Brother, and Brother *Mitchel*, come to see me ; and we were comforted together. Our Time was short, for I had but half an Hour, before I went to answer for what I had done. Somebody had told the Ensign that I had been preaching ; and he sent for me, and said *Damn your Blood, Sir, have you been preaching this Morning ?* I said, I had. He swore he would have no Preaching nor Praying in their Regiment. Then I said, " Sir, you ought to have no Swearing nor Cursing neither ; for surely I have as much Right to pray and preach, as you have to curse and swear."

He swore again that I should be damnably whipped for what I had done. I answer'd, " Let God look to that, for the Cause is his. But if you don't leave off your Cursing and Swearing, it will be worse with you then with me. Then he said, " Corporal, put this Fellow in Prison directly." The Corporal said, " Sir, I must not carry a Man to Prison, unless I give in his Crime with him." Well, said he, it is for disobeying Orders. So I see an hundred may disobey all the Orders of God, and there is no Notice taken of them ; nor do the common People cry out hang *them* out of the Way : but if one of a thousand begins to reprove them for Sin, they hale him to Prison, as if he had kill'd Father or Mother. But so it was from the Beginning ; for a Murtherer was preferr'd before the Prince of Life.

I was put Prisoner just as the Church began, and I sent a Man to tell my Brother that the Word of God was fulfill'd. *Behold the Devil shall cast some of you into Prison, that ye may be tried, and desir'd their Prayers that I may be faithful unto Death.*——As soon as I was within the Prison, my Heart was fill'd with Joy unspeakable, and my Mouth with Praise to my dear Redeemer. This also shall turn to the Glory of God ; for several Men of good Report heard me this Morning, and testified that I had spoke the Truth ; and they

they would not (they said) be guilty of sending that Man to Prison for Preaching not for all the World. This caus'd many to come to me, who offer'd me Wine and strong Drink. I told them I did not care for any sort of strong Liquor; but such as I had gave I unto them; some little Books, and the Words of God, which he gave me plentifully to speak to them, without respect of any Man's Person.

Two Nights and near three Days, I was kept Prisoner at this Time; during which, my Soul was as a water'd Garden, and I could sing Praises to God all the Day long, for he turn'd my Captivity into Joy; and gave me to rest as well on the Boards as if I had been on a Bed of Down. Now could I say, God's Service is perfect Freedom, and I was carried out much in Prayer, that my Enemies might drink of the same River of Peace which my God gave so largely to me.

Now did I more plainly see the dreadful State of the Unconverted than ever before; and thought, if it might be the Conversion of my Enemies, I could be content that they should tread me under their Feet. But God only knows how it would have been, had I been so tried. Yet thus far he hath help'd me, and given me Strength for my Day. Indeed I have found him a God of Truth, as far as I have tried him; and I put forth the Hand of my Faith, to lay hold of his Strength for what he shall next call me to.

On *Tuesday* I was fetch'd out, and brought before the Major. There were several of the young Officers with him, who smil'd when I came into the Room; for they had been several Times to see me in Prison, and had sworn I should be severely whipt. But I told them, if they did not repent, and leave off that Swearing, they should perish eternally (and I shall be Witness against you) and that will be worse than your whipping me for CHRIST's Sake.

Now they seem'd to rejoice, as if their Words were going to be fulfill'd. The Major call'd, "*John Nelson*, what was you put in Prison for?" For warning the People to flee from the Wrath to come, I answer'd; and

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if this be a Crime, I shall commit it again, unless you cut out my Tongue: For it is better for me to die than disobey God. Well, but if that be all, he reply'd, that is no Crime: for, when you have done your Duty, I don't care if you preach every Night in an House, or any private Place out of the Town; but I would not have you make any Mobs." That said I, is far from my Design. "Well, said he, you may go home to your Quarters, and if I have a convenient Time, I will send for you, and hear you myself; for I wish all Men were like you." Here my Adversaries hung down their Heads, and gave off Smiling.

As I went to Sister *Townsend's*, I heard that we were to leave *York* on *Thursday* at four in the Morning, and march to *Sunderland*. I had a great Desire to have seen my Wife first; but she did not get my Letter soon enough. Many of the People came and said, "We are sorry you are going so soon from *York*; but if you get your Liberty, we hope both you and Mr. *Wesley* will come: For we have need of such Plain dealing, and thousands in the City would be glad to hear. You see what a populous wicked Place it is: Pray do not forget us, but think of us when you see us not. We expected some of you two or three Years ago; but you had no Regard for our Souls, till God brought you by Force. Surely you was not sold hither, but sent for our Good; therefore forget us not."

O the Tenderness which this People shew'd, and Desire for the Word of God! it mov'd me to cry out, Lord have Mercy on them, and let them hear thy Gospel, and find it thy Power unto Salvation; for why should thy People perish for lack of Knowledge?

On *Thursday* Morning we stood two Hours in the Streets before we set out of Town. We marched to *Easingwold* that Day, and when we were drawn up in the Street, the People perceiv'd me to be the *Methodist* Preacher they had read of in the News-papers. They told one another, and flock'd about me, as if the Soldiers had brought a Monster into the Town.

When we had staid near an Hour in the Street. I and five more were billeted at one House, where the

People were so poor, they had not fix Seats for us to sit on, nor any Beds; so we came Back to the Officers Quarters, and they order'd four of us to another House.

God gave me to speak plain to them, and several of their Neighbours, who came to see the *Methodist*. And they said, if this be the *Methodist* Doctrine, we pray God we may have it preach'd in this Town, for hundreds would be glad to hear you.

In the Evening the head Man of the Town came in. He is a profess'd Papist, but a moral honest Man, and one who bears a good Character in his Neighbourhood. He ask'd me many Questions, and God gave me to answer him to his Satisfaction. Indeed I never saw a Man of his Rank so teachable and so humble. His gold Lace did not make him above listening to the Gospel, he seem'd a Man of sound Reason, as well as liberal Education. I spoke near an Hour, to prove the Doctrine of Justification by Faith; and that both from the old and new Testament. I shew'd the Fruits of that justifying Faith, and the Necessity of every Man's having it, that he may escape the Damnation of Hell. The Word had such Effect upon him, that his Eyes discover'd the Tenderness of his Heart; and, when I had ended, he said, I think no Man in his Senses would dare to hinder you from instructing Sinners in the Way of Salvation: As for my Part I shall be glad to see you at Liberty: and if you get clear of these Men, and come again this Way, I would have call on me.

I was amaz'd to find such a Man amongst the Papists, having met very few, either Teachers or Hearers of our own Church, but what hold the Papish Principles ten Times stronger than this Man, who calls himself a Papist. When he went away, he forc'd two Shillings into my Hand, which I would have return'd, telling him I receiv'd no Money, and needed none; but he would not take it again, saying he could afford it, and I might have Occasion for it on my Journey. O God, be merciful to him that gives a Cup of cold Water to thy Servants.

Next

Next Morning, at two, the Drum beat for us to march out of Town. By Eleven on *Friday*, we got to *Northallerton*; and by Twelve, settled in Quarters. I went into the Market-place, and spoke to those I found there, of the Way of Salvation; I hope not in vain. Afterwards I was sitting alone, and there came a Shop-keeper, and said, If I would go to his House, he would give me a Glass of any Liquor I pleas'd to drink. I told him I did not drink any strong Liquor. Well but, he said, I desire your Company, if you please, for half an Hour. I went to his House, and drank Tea with him and his Family and spoke plain to them. They receiv'd my Exhortation with Thankfulness, and said, We have heard much of you, but never heard any of you before. Several of you have passed through the Town, and we wonder'd they never preach'd here. If you come again, we hope you will call and see us. I gave them a Book, and return'd to my Quarters.

Next Morning, at one, the Drum beat for us to march, and we got to *Darlington* by nine. Here I was known to several; and, by them, made known to almost all the Town. Many came to my Quarters to talk with me; and others, sent for me. Whence the Famine in our Land; I find the People hunger after the Word, as if there were no Bibles in the Nation.

We rested here on *Sunday*, and I had many to see me. When they heard what our Doctrine was, they cried, It is a Shame to send a Man for a Soldier for speaking the Truth; for let all Men say what they will, this is the Gospel of JESUS CHRIST.

In the Evening one of the Officers came to me, and said, Well, Sir, why was you not at Church to-day? I answer'd, I was, Sir, and if you had been there, you might have seen me; for I never miss going, when I have an Opportunity. Well, Sir, he added, have you preach'd since you came hither; Not publickly yet, I reply'd. He swore he wish'd I would, that he might punish me severely. But, Sir, (I told him) if you don't repent and Leave off that Habit of Swearing, you will be worse punish'd than you are able to punish me. He said, I will make you mind your Firelock, and leave

off your Preaching. Yes, Sir, I answer'd when I leave off Speaking.

This was he that put me in Prison at *York* for preaching. As *Saul* hunted *David*, so has this Man hunted my Soul ; but I trust the same God that deliver'd *David*, will deliver me from cruel Men.

I gave several Books away in this Town also ; which we left the next Morning.

I was much surpriz'd at the Good-nature of the Soldiers in all this March, for I believed twenty offer'd to carry the Gun for me, and any thing else I had. God, I found, supported me wonderfully in all these Trials ; for I could travel fifteen or twenty Miles fasting, as well as those who eat and drink two or three Times by the way. Surely Man doth not live by Bread alone ; but the LORD is the Strength of *Israel* ; the Defender of all them that put their Trust in him. O God, be thou my Guide unto Death.

We got to *Durham* by nine on *Monday* ; but, in our Way to *Darlington*, we had a River to cross, and were oblig'd to wade through it. The Day was very hot, so that I had sweat much, and catch'd Cold immediately. I found myself much out of Order, when we got to *Durham*, and desired I might lay down a little. Corporal *W*—— lay down with me, and fell asleep. At twelve, I awak'd suddenly, as if some Man had call'd me, and said to the Corporal I must go to the Market-place directly, for what I know not, neither which Way to go to it. Nor I, he said ; but I will go with you, and we can enquire the Way. Accordingly we did : and just as we got thither, my Brother *Wesley* was enquiring for me among the Soldiers. Well, said Mr. *W*——, I did never see such a Thing in all my Life, that you should thus awake, and come to meet your Friend the Minute he came to seek for you.

We were much comforted together. He told me that Mr. *John Wesley* would be at *Durham* soon after four o'Clock. I gave God Thanks for that News. We went to a Common, about a Mile from the Town, and there we met Mr. *W*——. My Heart rejoic'd to see him ;  
and



and great Reason have I to give God Thanks that I ever saw him, who was an Instrument in God's Hands of plucking me as a Brand out of the Fire. And I have found him God's Messenger for my Good ever since.

We came to the Sign of the Angel, and had some Conversation together. He exhorted me to watch and pray; and did not doubt but my Captivity would turn to the Glory of God, and Furtherance of the Gospel. At six I went to answer my Call, and Mr. *W*— went into the *Minster*.

Afterwards I and *Thomas Beard*, my Fellow-prisoner, met Mr. *W*— and our Brother *Errington*, and went with them to the Inn, and staid till nine. When we had pray'd together, we commended each other to the Grace of God, and so parted in Body, not in Spirit.

Next Morning the Drum beat at one, and we were call'd up into the Market-place, and caus'd to stand till three, and then march'd off for *Sunderland*, which we reach'd by nine. When we were brought up in the Town, I heard several of the Inhabitants say to one another that is the *Methodist* mention'd in the Newspapers; for his Look is not like other Mens. O my God, why am I, and my Fellows, become Men that are wonder'd at.

While we stood, a Landlord came to us, and said, Sir, I wish you would quarter at my House; for I expect two, and should be glad to have you for one, and whom you chuse for a Comrade. I chose Coporal *W*— and ask'd for the Billet as the Man desir'd, but could not get it. But I believe we got the best Quarters we could have in *Sunderland*. Thus, I see, if we acknowledge God in all our Ways, he will direct our Paths.

When I went to Exercise, I had many came to see me, and fell in Discourse with them, but could get no Hold of them; for they assented and consented to all I said; and were so full of what the World calls good Manners, that all I spoke was as written on the Sand, tho' I talk'd with them several Days. Yet some, I trust, will be mindful of their everlasting Welfare.

On *Saturday* Night I was order'd to stand Centry on the *Sunday* following, and desir'd I might stand  
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another Day, or pay for my Guard. I believe ten Men offer'd to stand for me, but all in vain: for the Ensign was the Officer of the Guard that Day; and he protested he would make me do it myself. I ask'd, Sir, what have I done, that I can't have the same Liberty as another Man? He answer'd, You love the Church too well; and I will keep you from it, and make them go who do not like to go. Keep me, O my God, from all Anger or Ill-will; for this Man it set to prove me. I went to the Guard-house, and many came to talk with me; but I did not stand Centry, till six on *Monday* Morning. The Ensign's saying in the open Street, I should not go to Church, because I lov'd it, drew many of the People to me; and will turn, I am perswaded, to the Furtherance of the Gospel,

The Week after, Mr. M— came. He had heard what the Ensign had done, and came to me, and ask'd me how I did; and said, I am inform'd Mr. A— hinder'd you from going to Church; but I will assure you, you shall not be hinder'd again, as long as you are with us.

I have found something of Good in this Man ever since I knew him. He will hear Reason, and seems to make a Conscience both of his Words and Actions.

I was near an Hour in his Chamber, and he ask'd me of the principal Points of our Doctrine. I made them as plain to him as I could, and he heard me with great Candour, and said he had no Fault at all to find with it. He told me, The first Time that ever I saw you, I saw you was no Vagrant; but it would be a Scandal to all who were concern'd in sending or receiving such an one; for the Act of Parliament does not reach such as you. But the rest of the Officers said they could not help it, for you was deliver'd to us as a Soldier by the J—s, and they are the Rogues. No Sir, I answer'd the J—s are in no Fault, for I was never before one of them yet. He said, Who sent you then? I reply'd, the Commissioners. What Evidence had they against you? The Accusation against me was, *He preaches to the People*, by the Constable's Deputy; and he also confessed he knew no other Evil of me. Well, but the Act of Toleration clears you from that's being a Crime, What had you no Man to speak for you? Yes, se-

veral were ready, but none were suffer'd to do it; neither were the Papers regarded which my honest Neighbours and Gentlemen sent on my Behalf. For one of the Commissioners was the *Parson* of our Parish, and *he was the Evidence against me*; and they said they would hear no other. Nay, said Mr. M——, it is no Wonder they treated you so, if the Priest was concern'd; for they have been at the Head of all the Persecutions for Religion which have been since the World began. I see them so wicked, that I do not mind Religion at all. But this is my Religion: I believe there is one God, and that CHRIST his Son died for the World: and I strive to do honestly to all Men: and to do a good turn to the Meanest, If I can. And I think my Religion is better than theirs who preach one thing, and do another. For I have seen so much of them, that I will assure you, I would hear you as soon as any—in the Land.

He said, he could like to read some of our Books; and I made him a Present of *An earnest Appeal*, and the *Character of a Methodist*, and the Sermon *Awake thou that sleepest*. He has told me since, that he has read, and likes them well.

This Day he procur'd me a Furlow to go to *Newcastle* for seven Days: and I found I did not go up without the Lord; for my Soul, and those of the People, were refresh'd with the Love of God. Several of the Soldiers came to hear me preach, and gave great Attention to the Things which were spoken. I found great Freedom to speak to the Children, whom God has call'd out of the Evil World, to serve him in this Place. Watch over them, O my God, for good, and be thou their Guide unto Death.

On *Tuesday* my Time was out to go back. I preach'd at *Painshoe*, in the Afternoon, to an attentive Congregation, and got to *Sunderland* by seven at Night. This Week I receiv'd a Letter from Mr. C—W—, that the E. of S. had assur'd the L. H—, that I should be set at Liberty in a few Days. I said, The LORD hath not forgotten to be gracious, for he hath taken my Cause in Hand, and it shall turn to his Glory; for he alone hath done the Work, when all human Means had seem'd

seem'd to fail. My Enemies cry'd, we have made his Bonds strong, and none can deliver him out of our Snare ; for we have put it out of the Officer's Power to discharge him for any Price. LORD, I beseech thee, open their Eyes, and let them see the Snare which Satan hath laid for their Souls, and escape by speedy Repentance, and Faith in thy Blood.

This Week I was much out of Health by the Surfeit I got in marching ; but found present Ease by being blooded. The Week following I was sent for by the Captain to the Store-house ; and he insisted on my going, tho' I was so ill. When I came there, he and three more Officers came, and ask'd me how I did. I told them ; and they said, Here is a good Coat for you, to keep you from Cold, that you may recover your Health. I said, I have Coats enough, if that would do, I need none of yours. They said, They would make me wear it, and all the other Cloathing belonging to a Soldier. I answer'd, you may array me as a Man of War, but I shall never fight. They ask'd, What is your Reason ? And my Answer was, I cannot see any Thing in this World worth fighting for. I want neither its Riches nor Honours but the Honour that cometh from God only. I regard neither its Smiles nor its Frowns ; and having no Business in it but to get well out of it.

Then they order'd the Serjeant to pull off my Coat, and put a red one on me. When he had done it, they turn'd me round and rejoic'd over me. I said, you see the Scripture cannot be broken, where it saith, *If they do this in the green Tree, what will they do in the dry ?* What do you mean by that, they ask'd ? and I answer'd, *The Soldiers took Jesus, and stripped him, and put a Scarlet Robe upon him, and mocked him,* as you have treated me, his Servant, this Day, for speaking his Words. He indeed hath the greater Condemnation, who deliver'd me into your Hands ; but I pray God forgive you all. These Words turn'd their Countenance and Behaviour towards me, and one of them labour'd from that Time to find some Way for me to be set at Liberty.

During my three Weeks Illness, many of the Brethren and Sisters from *Newcastle, Biddick, and Painsber,* came to see me, and God was pleas'd at that Time to give some  
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the Knowledge of Salvation by the Remission of their Sins; and to comfort all our Hearts with his Love. O may we ever keep his Commandments, that we may continue in his Love even as he hath kept his Father's Commandments, and continu'd in his Love.

On Friday, July 27, John Grabam of Sunderland came to me with an open Letter in his Hand, and said, Come, my Friend, I have good News for thee. God hath heard the Prayers of the People in thy Behalf, and sent thee Deliverance. Here, read this Letter, which the Major hath sent to the Captain on thy Account. It was on this wise, "I have receiv'd an Order from the Earl of S. to discharge John Nelson, who was prest from *Birstal*, in the West-riding of *Yorkshire*. Therefore, take his Arms and Cloathing from him which he has receiv'd, and let me know if he has had any Pay since he came, and send him to me with a Furlow." Accordingly I deliver'd all Things I had belonging to them, to Lieutenant M. who said, He was glad that I was to be releas'd, and wish'd me well wheresoever I went, I had a Furlow given me, and set out in the Afternoon with some that were came from *Newcastle* to see me; and got there by seven.

All the Society gave God Thanks on my Behalf, as soon as they saw me; for they had Knowledge of my Deliverance before I had. Next Morning I went to the Major's Quarters about nine. When I had waited about an Hour, I was order'd to come at half an Hour past eleven; I did so, and waited another Hour. Then the Major call'd to me, and bad me come at half an Hour after two, and he would speak to me. I came again as he order'd me, and when I had staid near an Hour, one of the Captains call'd me, and said, the Major is gone to dine with the Mayor of the Town, and you will hardly see him to-night; but you will be sure to find him to-morrow Morning. I told him that would not do for me; for my Business was not to be done on the Sabbath.

Near six in the Evening, I saw the Major go along the Street, and follow'd him to his Lodgings. He said, I have an Order from the Lord S— to discharge you. He sent for the Adjutant, and order'd him to bring

two printed Discharges with him. He came, and three more of the Officers with him, and fill'd up the Discharge. When he had done, he said, I wish all the Men in our Regiment would behave as well as Mr. *Nelson* has done since he came among us, it would be much better for us, and them too. Then our Lieutenant said, Indeed he has done much Good since he came among us; for we have not one third of the Cursing and Swearing in the Regiment, which we had before he came. And he has given me several private Exhortations, and some of their Books; and I thank him for them, and his Advice, for it is good. Then the Major said, I wish I had a Regiment of such Men as he is in all respects, save that one, his refusing to fight: I would not care what Enemy I had to meet, or where my Lot was cast.—Sir, if you fear God, I said, you have no need to fear any Thing else: for they that fear him depart from Evil, and seek to do his Will, and not their own. They know that in his Hand are the Issues of Life and Death; therefore they fear not him that can kill the Body only, but him that can destroy both Soul and Body in Hell. And every one that has this Fear is truly wise; but he that dares commit Sin, his Wisdom is the Foolishness of Folly; for he is pulling Destruction on his own Head, and sitting himself for the Fuel of Hell Fire. But he that is wise unto Salvation, is bold as a Lion, and is more noble than to contend for the Honour which cometh of Men. For having Bread to eat, and Raiment to put on, he knows that is all this World can afford him. He pities the great Ones of the Earth, who feeds on Husks, and can be content with the empty Title of Right Honourable; while, by Sin, they debase themselves even down to Hell. But by these Things the God of this World blinds their Eyes, so that very few of them see the Way to Heaven, as it is pointed out in the Word of God.

Well, said the Major, if you are so scrupulous about Fighting, what must we do? I answer'd, It is your Trade, and if you had a better it might be better for you. But somebody, he reply'd, must fight. I said, If all Men lived by Faith in the Son of God, Wars would be

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be at an End. That is true, he answer'd, if it was so, we should learn War no more.

But there is one Thing I desire to know of you; tell me, do you make your Sermons ready before you go to preach, or do you speak off hand? "I do not study what to say, but speak as the Spirit of God enables me." Well, said he, I cannot tell what you mean by the Spirit of God. The more is the Pity, I answer'd, that you should have liv'd so long in the World, and know nothing of God yet. For we do not know God, but by his own Spirit given unto us; and till we have receiv'd that Spirit, we are without God in the World. And no Man can have this Gift and not know it; for thus saith the Lord JESUS, *At that Day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.* So if God be true, we must know that CHRIST is in us, or we are none of his. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the Sons of God. But if any Man have not the Spirit of CHRIST, he is none of his. He is no Christian, no more than a *Turk* or a *Pagan* is, unless he has the same Spirit which rais'd CHRIST from the Dead, to raise him in this World from the Death of Sin.

Here one of the Captains spoke, You said one Day, if we have not the Spirit of God, we are dead while we live. Did I so? *Yes you did.* Then I will prove it; both from the Doctrine of the Church of *England* (of which I profess myself a Member) and from the Word of God. God gave me to speak plainly from both for about twenty Minutes; none contradicting me, but they stood as dumb Men.

Then the Major said, Here is such a Discharge for you, as I never gave before, but once; and put it into my Hand. I told them, I have now deliver'd my own Soul, and am pure from the Blood of you all; for I have not spared either Poor or Rich, since I came among you, but have set Life and Death before you all, as you came in my Way. I have declar'd unto you, that the Wicked shall be turned into Hell, and all the People that forget God; and contrarywise, the blessed State of them, that repent, and obey the Gospel of CHRIST our Saviour. And I pray God give you all

all to understand the Things which make for your everlasting Peace, and bless you in turning every one of you from your Iniquities. Then shall we meet another Day to part no more. The Major said, I wish you well wherever you go; for I believe you *Methodists* are well-meaning People; and so said they all. I gave them a Book, and took my Leave of them.

I went to the Room, and preach'd that Night, and had several of the Soldiers to hear me, who gave great Attention to what I said. Then I took my Leave of them; and some of them wept, and desir'd me to pray for them, and said, We are glad you are set at Liberty, but sorry to part with you. I commended them to God, and to the Word of his Grace, and trust they will mind the Exhortation, and become good Soldiers of JESUS CHRIST.

On this 28th Day of *July*, I was set at Liberty to go wheresoever I thought was most to GOD's Glory, who has deliver'd me from my Bonds. For He hath done the Work, and to him the Glory is due. What am I, that He should so care for me! but He is a God that heareth the Prayer; and the Cries of his People inclin'd Him to take my Cause in Hand. Praise the Lord, O my Soul, who hath kept thee in all Trials, and hath not suffer'd thee to faint in sore Temptation.

Now I find the Words true which Mr. *John Wesley* first sent me at *York*. "Well, my Brother, is the God whom you serve, able to deliver you, and do you find him faithful to his Word? is his Grace still sufficient for you? I doubt it not; He will not suffer you to be weary or faint in your Mind. But He had Work for you to do which you knew not of, and thus his Counsel was to be fulfill'd! O loose no Time! Who knows how many Souls God may by this Means deliver into your Hands. Shall not all these Things be for the Furtherance of the Gospel? and is not the Time coming when we shall cry out together; "Nay, in all these Things we are more than Conquerors, thro' him that loved us."



